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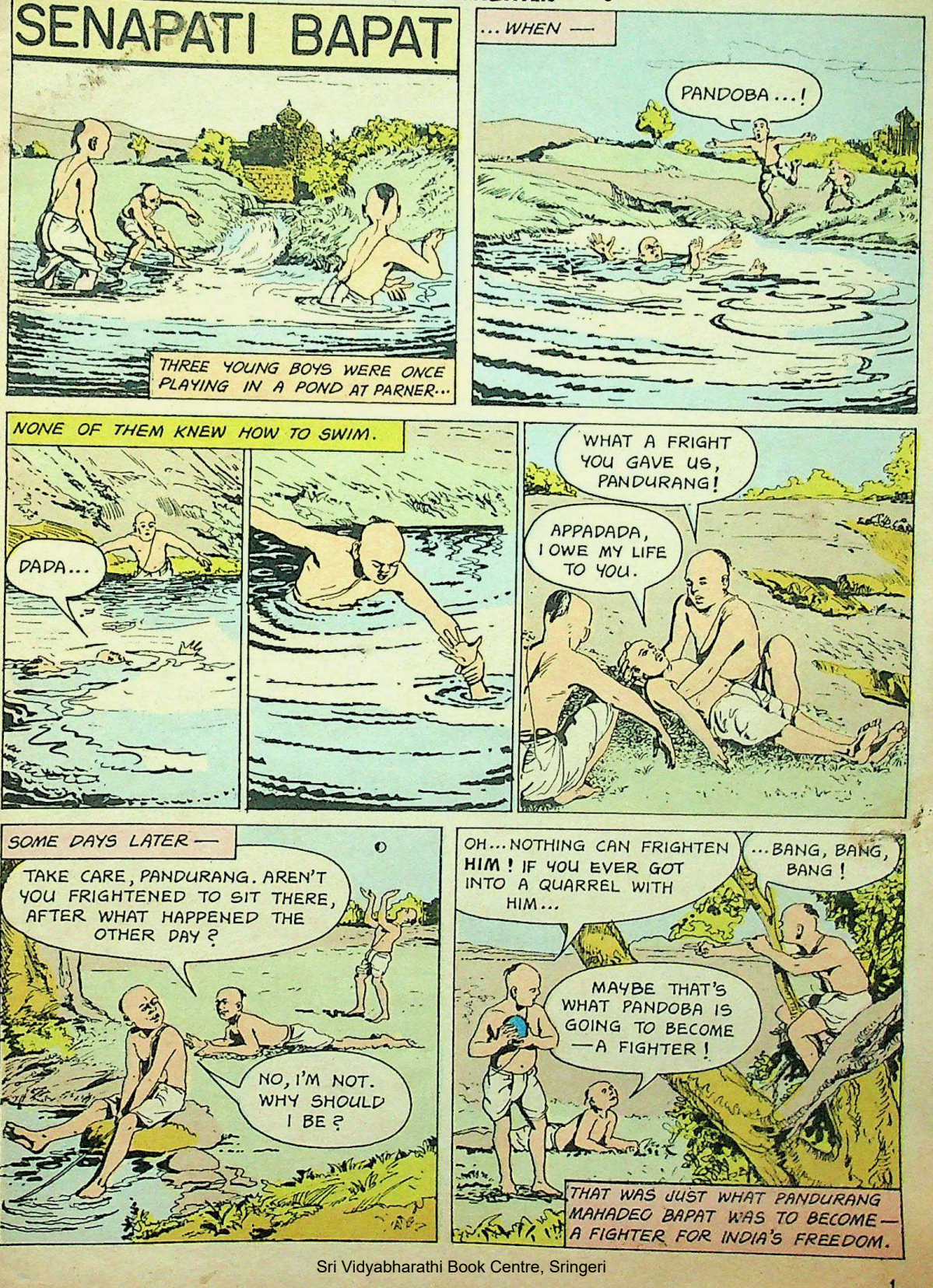
SENAPATI BAPAT



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THE PRICE FOR SPEAKING OUT

ON JANUARY 14, 1906, A MEETING OF THE INDEPENDENT LABOUR PARTY* WAS BEING HELD AT EDINBURGH IN SCOTLAND. ONE OF THE SPEAKERS WAS BAPAT; HIS SUBJECT, BRITISH RULE IN INDIA.

FRIENDS, BRITISH RULE IN INDIA IS THE WORST ONE CAN THINK OF FOR A SUBJECT NATION. IT IS THE WORST FORM OF EVIL FOR US INDIANS, FOR EVEN THE BRITONS, OUR RULERS, AND FOR THE HUMAN RACE.

IN THE INTERESTS OF THE HUMAN RACE AND IN PURSUANCE OF JUSTICE FOR OUR MILLIONS AND IN ORDER TO SAVE THE BRITONS THEMSELVES FROM DEGENERATING INTO ABJECT SERVANTS OF THE DEVIL, WE HAVE MADE UP OUR MIND TO GET BACK OUR FREEDOM... WE ARE CONFIDENT OF ULTIMATE VICTORY.

CONGRATULATIONS, BAPAT. THAT WAS A FINE SPEECH!

THANK YOU, PROFESSOR.

BUT BAPAT'S INDIAN COLLEAGUES WERE SHOCKED.

BAPAT, WHAT HAVE YOU DONE? IF THE BRITISH IN INDIA COME TO KNOW OF YOUR SPEECH...

HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THAT YOU ARE HERE ON A SCHOLARSHIP?

AREN'T YOU AFRAID OF LOSING IT?

NOT IN THE LEAST!

SOMETIMES, SPEAKING OUT BECOMES MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVERYTHING ELSE. AND I'M GLAD I DID.

BUT BAPAT HAD TO PAY THE PRICE FOR DOING SO—HE LOST HIS SCHOLARSHIP.

* LATER NAMED THE LABOUR PARTY

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BAPAT BRINGS THE BOMB TO INDIA

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FROM EDINBURGH, BAPAT WENT TO LONDON AND THEN CAME TO PARIS.

HE HAD COME TO PARIS WITH A PURPOSE —TO LEARN HOW TO MAKE BOMBS. DEDICATED RUSSIAN REVOLUTIONARIES WERE HIS INSTRUCTORS.

THE MAIN BASE OF THE BOMB IS A CHEMICAL KNOWN AS PICRIC ACID...

IN THE MEANWHILE, BAPAT ALSO MANAGED TO GET A RUSSIAN MANUAL ON BOMB-MAKING. A RUSSIAN REVOLUTIONARY, ANNA KLAUS, TRANSLATED IT INTO ENGLISH FOR HIM.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP, ANNA.

IT WAS MY PLEASURE, BAPAT.

BAPAT MADE TWENTY COPIES OF THE MANUAL TO DISTRIBUTE AMONG HIS COLLEAGUES, HEMACHANDRA DAS, V.D. SAVARKAR AND OTHERS. HE ALSO RESOLVED IN HIS USUAL FEARLESS MANNER TO EXPLODE A BOMB IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS!

BUT SAVARKAR DISSUADED HIM FROM DOING THIS.

GO BACK HOME, INSTEAD, BAPAT, AND TEACH OUR YOUTH TO MAKE BOMBS.

YES... YOU ARE RIGHT. I WILL RETURN TO INDIA.

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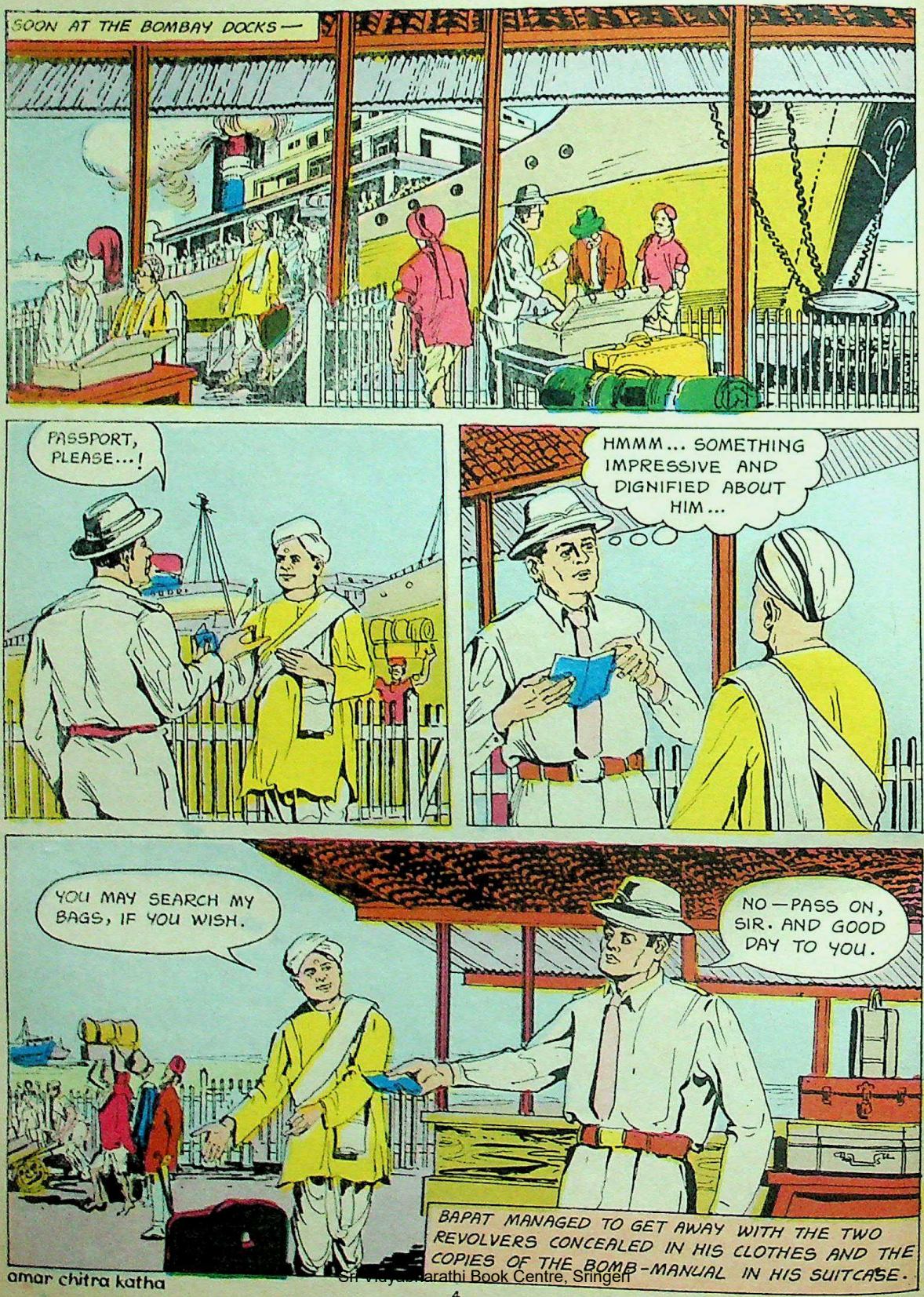

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THESE COPIES WERE SOON DISTRIBUTED. LATER BAPAT WENT TO CALCUTTA TO MEET HIS COLLEAGUE, HEMACHANDRA DAS.

WELCOME, BAPAT. THE KNOWLEDGE YOU AND I GAINED IN PARIS IS BEARING FRUIT HERE.

MAY MORE SUCH LABORATORIES SPRING UP ALL OVER OUR BELOVED LAND! I AWAIT THE DAY WHEN WE GO INTO ACTION.

THAT DAY IS JUST ROUND THE CORNER. OUR FIRST TARGET IS GOING TO BE A TOP BRITISH OFFICIAL.

DAS... WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? YOU PLAN TO EXPLODE A BOMB AND...

...KILL! YES.

KILLING A FEW PEOPLE IS NOT GOING TO LEAD US FAR. IF OURS IS TO BE A COUNTRY-WIDE ARMED STRUGGLE, WE MUST FIRST BUILD A NETWORK OF SECRET SOCIETIES ...BOMB FACTORIES...

I DISAGREE, BAPAT. UNLESS WE ACT NOW WE'LL NEVER MAKE A BEGINNING.

THE TWO FRIENDS PARTED AND A WORRIED BAPAT LEFT BENGAL.

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SOON, IN WHAT CAME TO BE KNOWN AS THE MANIKTOLA BOMB CASE, TWO YOUNG REVOLUTIONARIES EXPLODED A BOMB.

THE PAPERS REPORTED IT ALL.

HUNT ON FOR CONSPIRATORS

THE HITA

Bomb outrages in Bengal Revolutionaries suspected

TAN

HINDU

AT PUNE —

BAPAT, ONE OF THE ACCUSED AT THE TRIAL HAS MENTIONED THAT YOUR VISIT TO CALCUTTA WAS CONNECTED WITH THE BOMB INCIDENT.

THAT IS ABSURD. I HAD NO HAND IN IT.

BUT THE GOVERNMENT WILL PIN IT ON YOU AND HAVE YOU IMPRISONED. I ADVISE YOU TO GO UNDERGROUND.

I WILL. SO MUCH MORE CAN BE DONE IF I REMAIN OUTSIDE PRISON THAN IF I SIT LOCKED UP INSIDE IT.

SO BAPAT, THE MAN WHO HAD INTRODUCED THE BOMB INTO INDIA, WAS NOW ON THE RUN.

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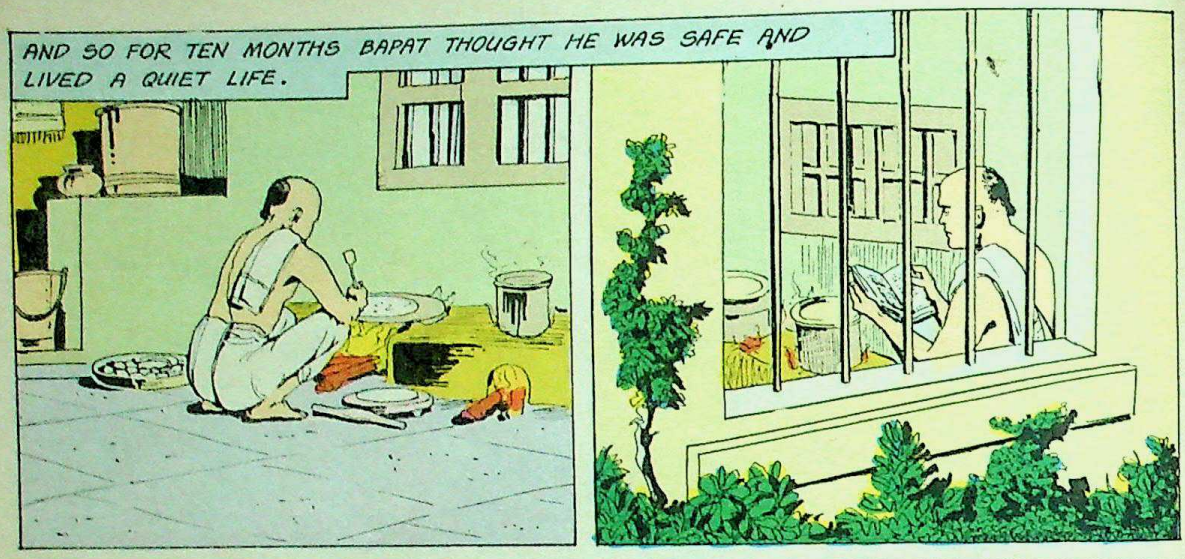

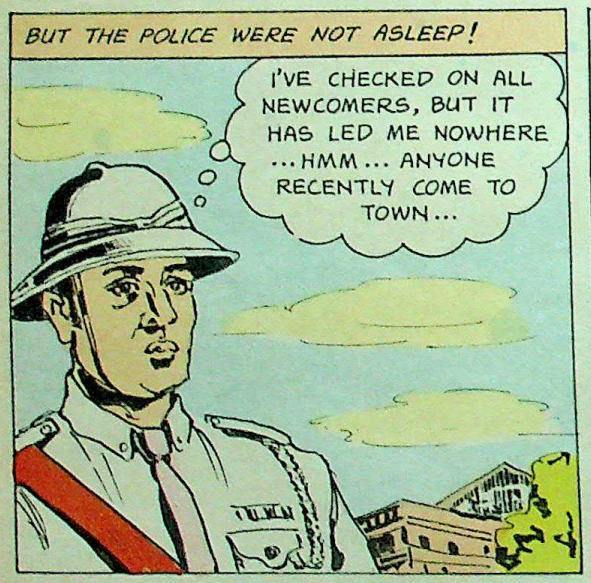

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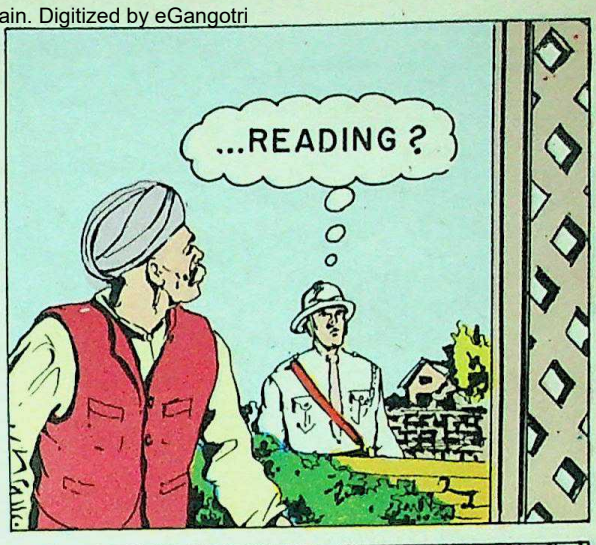

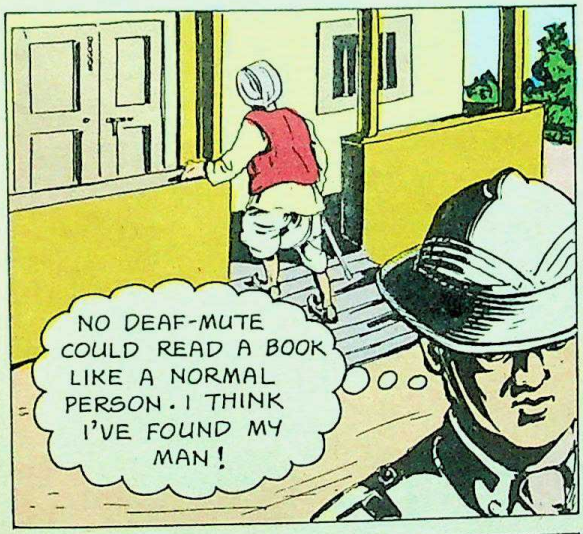

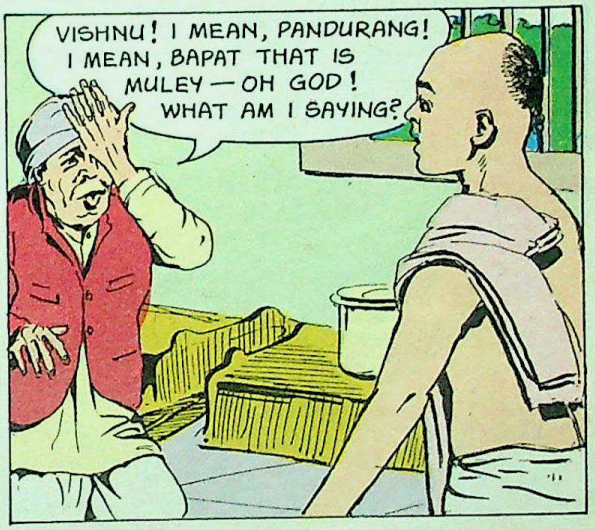

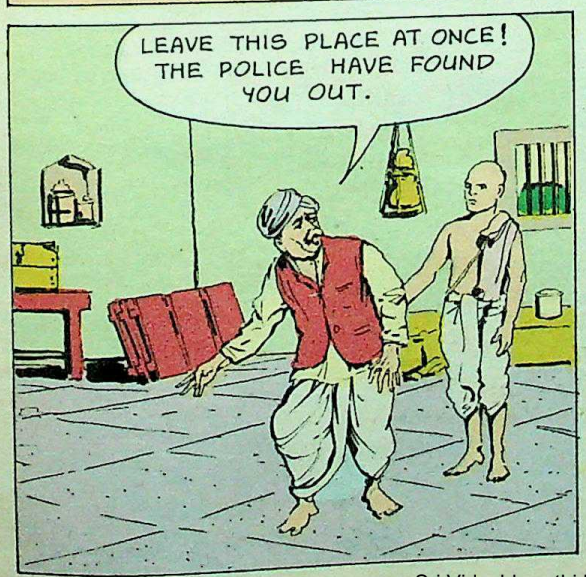

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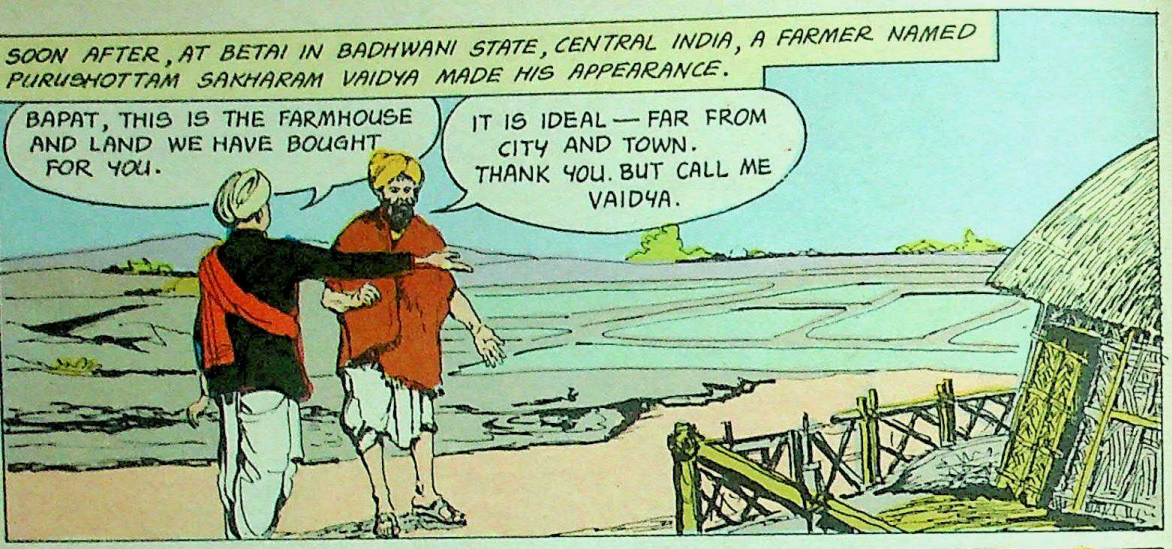

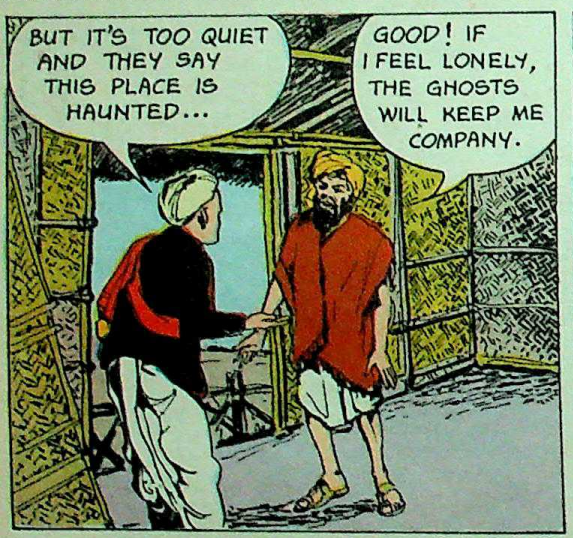

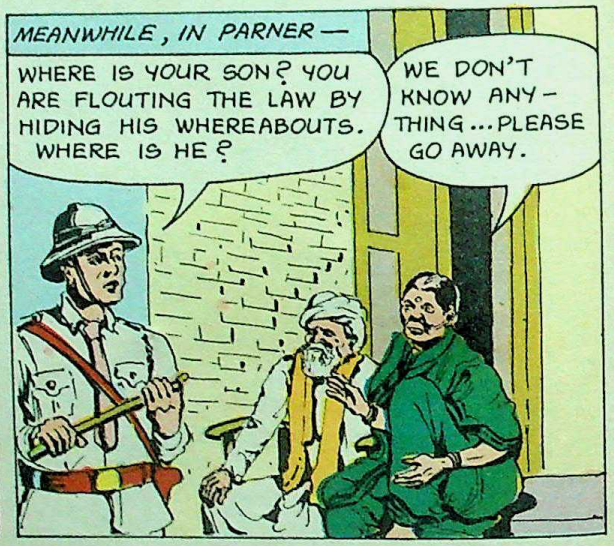

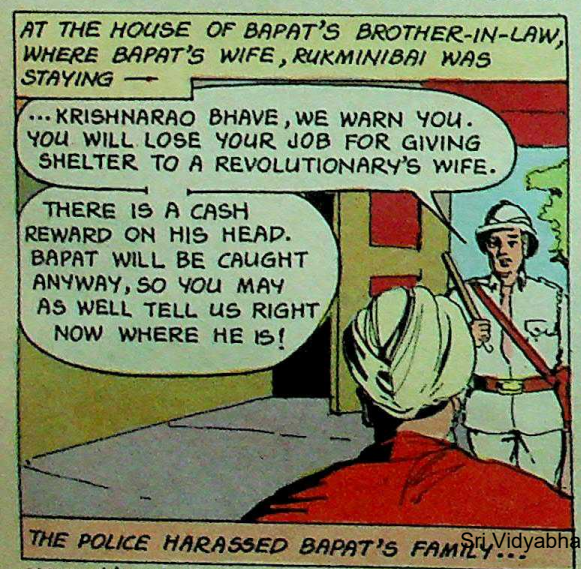

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FOR A WHILE, BAPAT STAYED WITH A FRIEND AT BADHWANI. THERE HE MET SITABAI, WIFE OF ANOTHER FRIEND.

SITABAI, YOU LOOK UNHAPPY. WHAT IS THE MATTER?

BAPAT SAHEB, WHEN YOUR FRIEND MARRIED ME, I WAS A WIDOW. I HAD A DAUGHTER BY MY FIRST MARRIAGE. HER NAME IS MALATI.

I HAD ENTRUSTED HER TO A WOMAN NAMED TANIBAI, WHO HAS TURNED OUT TO BE UNSCRUPULOUS. I AM NOW AFRAID TANIBAI WILL SPOIL MY DAUGHTER'S LIFE.

I THINK ALL THE TIME OF MY YOUNG CHILD... AND YET, TO BRING HER HERE TO MY NEW HUSBAND'S HOUSE... I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO...

SITABAI, I KNOW WHAT TO DO. I WILL FILE A SUIT FOR THE CUSTODY OF MALATI.

BUT... YOU NEED TO KEEP YOUR IDENTITY HIDDEN AT ALL COSTS... YOU WILL BE RISKING TOO MUCH...

BUT BAPAT, OR VAIDYA AS HE WAS NOW CALLED, WENT TO DHAR AND FILED THE SUIT AGAINST TANIBAI.

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BUT BAPAT NEEDED MONEY TO STAY ON AT DHAR TILL THE CASE WAS DECIDED. SO—

SIR, IS THERE A VACANCY FOR THE POST OF A TEACHER IN YOUR SCHOOL?

THERE IS, VAIDYA. AND THE JOB IS YOURS, BUT PLEASE PRODUCE A CERTIFICATE TO SAY THAT YOU ARE A MATRICULATE.

MY CERTIFICATE IS IN THE NAME OF PANDURANG BAPAT. I'LL NEED A NEW CERTIFICATE IN MY NEW NAME. HM-M-...

AND SO, AT 31, BAPAT APPEARED AGAIN FOR THE MATRIC EXAMINATION...

...SECURED A FIRST CLASS WITH DISTINCTION...

I hereby Certify that PURUSHOTTAM ....SAKHARAM-VAIDYA.... has passed following with distinction.

...GOT HIS JOB...

...AND EVENTUALLY, THE CUSTODY OF MALATI.

MY CHILD, GO—TELL YOUR VAIDYAMAMA HOW GRATEFUL YOU ARE!

VAIDYAMAMA! MY VAIDYAMAMA!

BAPAT SAW THAT MALATI WAS WELL TAKEN CARE OF.

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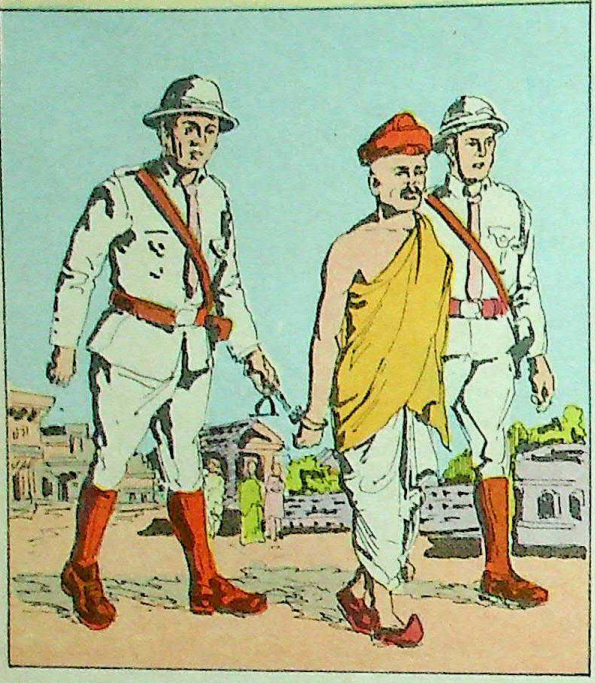
FOR OVER FOUR YEARS BAPAT MANAGED TO EVADE THE POLICE. BUT, FINALLY, A FRIEND BETRAYED HIM AND HE WAS ARRESTED.



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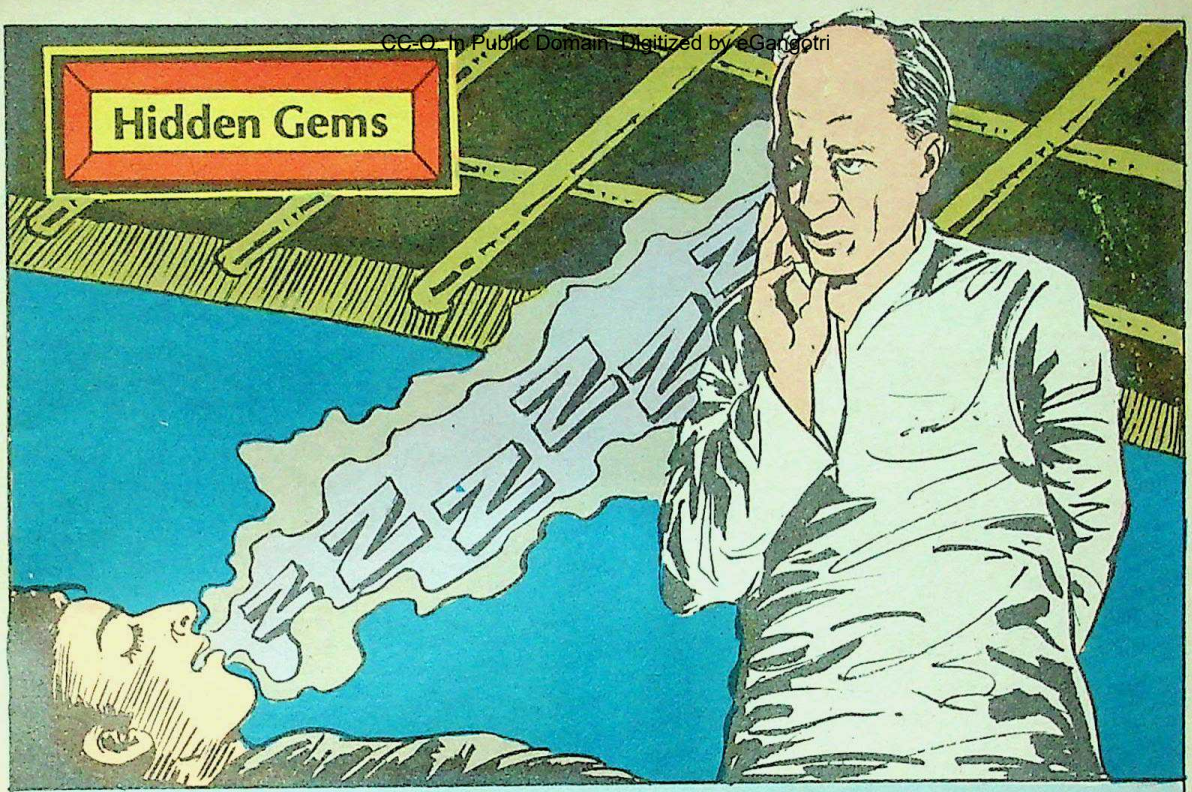

The Man who snored

Once, when Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was on a visit to Madras he stayed at a friend's house, near the beach.

One night, tired after a busy day, he lay down, hoping to get a good night's rest. But try as he might, he could not fall asleep. What kept him awake, he soon realized, was a rumbling sound coming from beyond his room. He rose and went outside to find out what it could be.

There on the verandah lay a young man. He was fast asleep, and ... he was snoring!

Panditji went to his host and requested him to ask the young man to sleep elsewhere or to allow him to shift his own bedding to the sea-shore.

Years later, on that very sea-shore, Pandit Nehru unveiled the statue of a renowned Indian.

And that Indian was none other than the young man who had once disturbed Panditji's sleep – Shri Kamaraj Nadar, who as President of the Indian National Congress played an important role in the affairs of our country.

By : P B Shaktivel – MADRAS.

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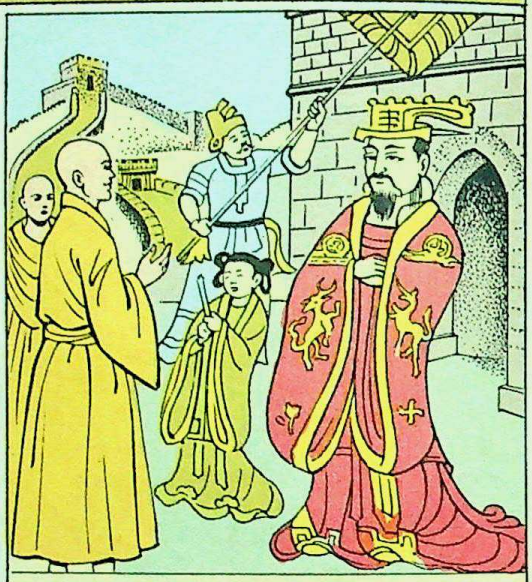
THOSE WHO WENT TO CHINA

Script : Swarn Khandpur
Illustrations : S. K. Parab

AS EARLY AS 65 A.D. TWO BUDDHIST MONKS, DHARMARAKSHA AND KASHYAPA MATANGA, MADE THE PERILOUS JOURNEY TO CHINA CARRYING SACRED BOOKS ON A WHITE HORSE.



THEY WERE WELCOMED BY THE CHINESE EMPEROR, MING TI, WHO BUILT A MONASTERY FOR THEM AND CALLED IT THE WHITE HORSE MONASTERY.

AFTER THAT, SEVERAL HUNDRED BUDDHIST MONKS FROM OUR COUNTRY VISITED CHINA FROM TIME TO TIME. AMONG THEM PARAMARTHA, KUMARAJIVA, BODHIDHARMA AND JIVAGUPTA BECAME VERY FAMOUS.

THESE INDIAN SCHOLARS NOT ONLY CARRIED MANY SANSKRIT MANUSCRIPTS WITH THEM WHICH THEY TRANSLATED INTO CHINESE BUT SOME OF THEM ALSO WROTE ORIGINAL BOOKS IN THE CHINESE LANGUAGE.

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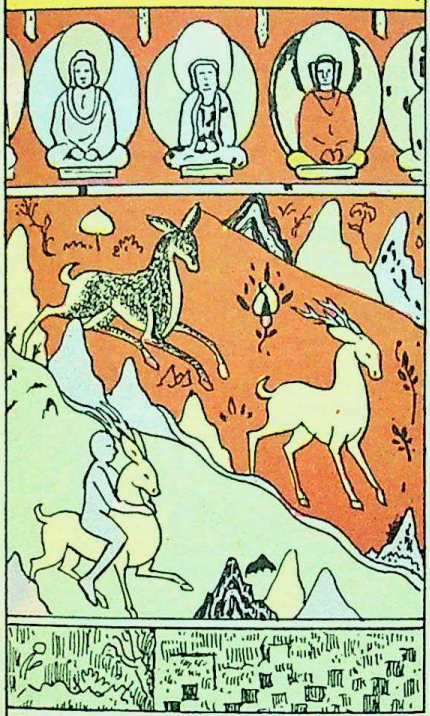
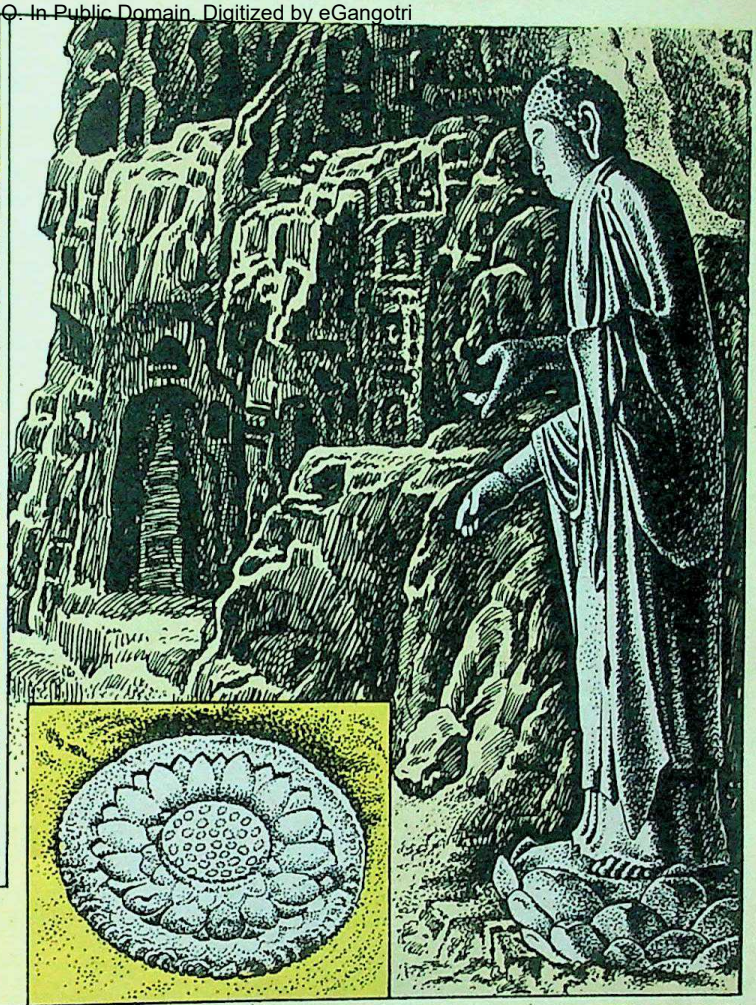
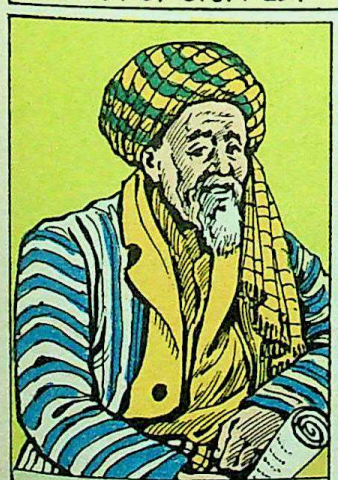
MANY INDIAN ARTISANS WERE INVITED FROM THE 'LAND OF THE BUDDHA' BY CHINESE RULERS TO CARVE CAVES, TO PAINT FRESCOES AND TO MAKE BUDDHA'S IMAGES.

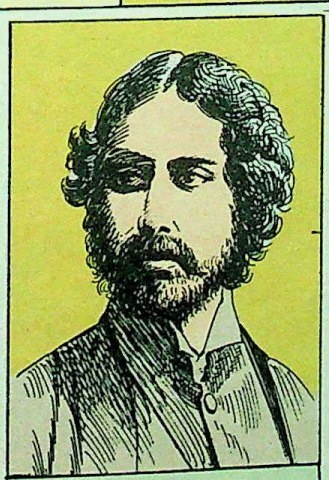


WITH THE DECLINE OF BUDDHISM IN INDIA, VISITS OF MONKS AND TEACHERS TO CHINA PRACTICALLY STOPPED.

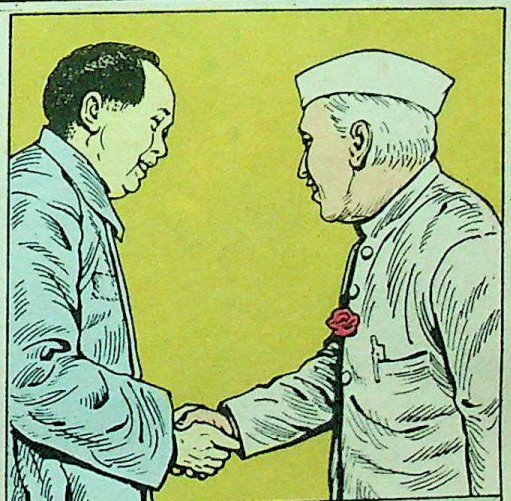




IN THE 14 TH CENTURY, MUHAMMAD TUGHLUQ SENT IBN BATUTA AS HIS AMBASSADOR TO THE CHINESE COURT.



THEN IN 1924, RABINDRANATH TAGORE VISITED CHINA TO RE-ESTABLISH CULTURAL TIES...



...AND IN 1954, INDIAN AND CHINESE LEADERS EXCHANGED VISITS AND ESTABLISHED DIPLOMATIC TIES.

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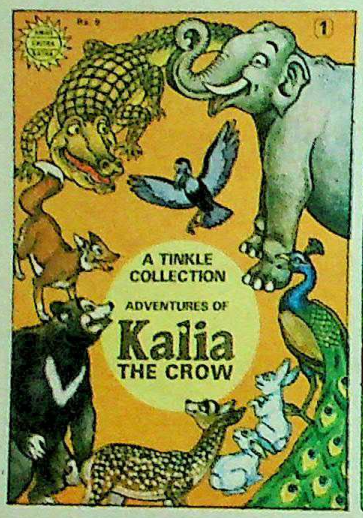
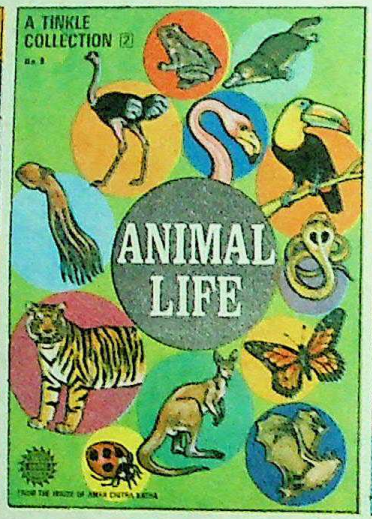
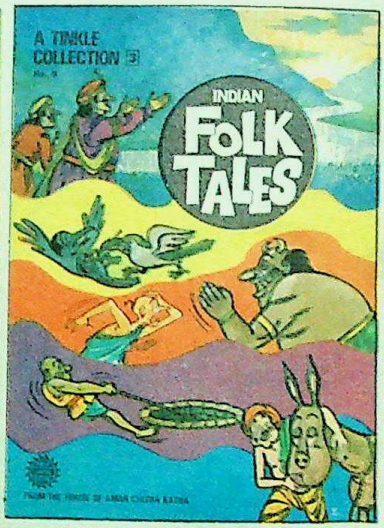
NOW AVAILABLE!







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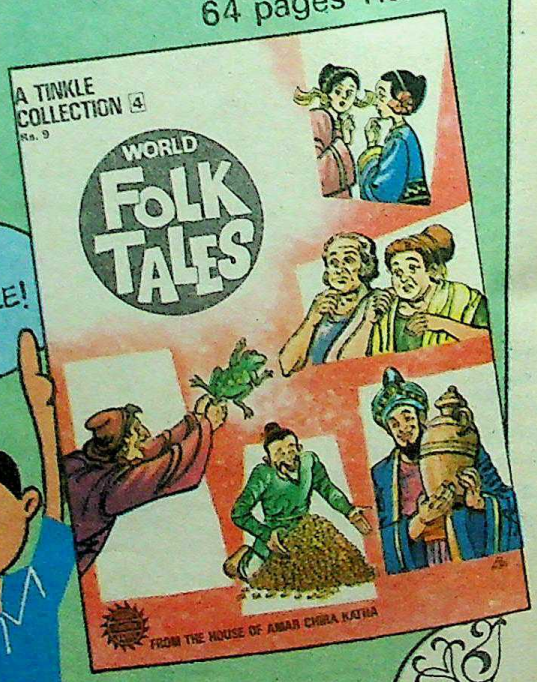

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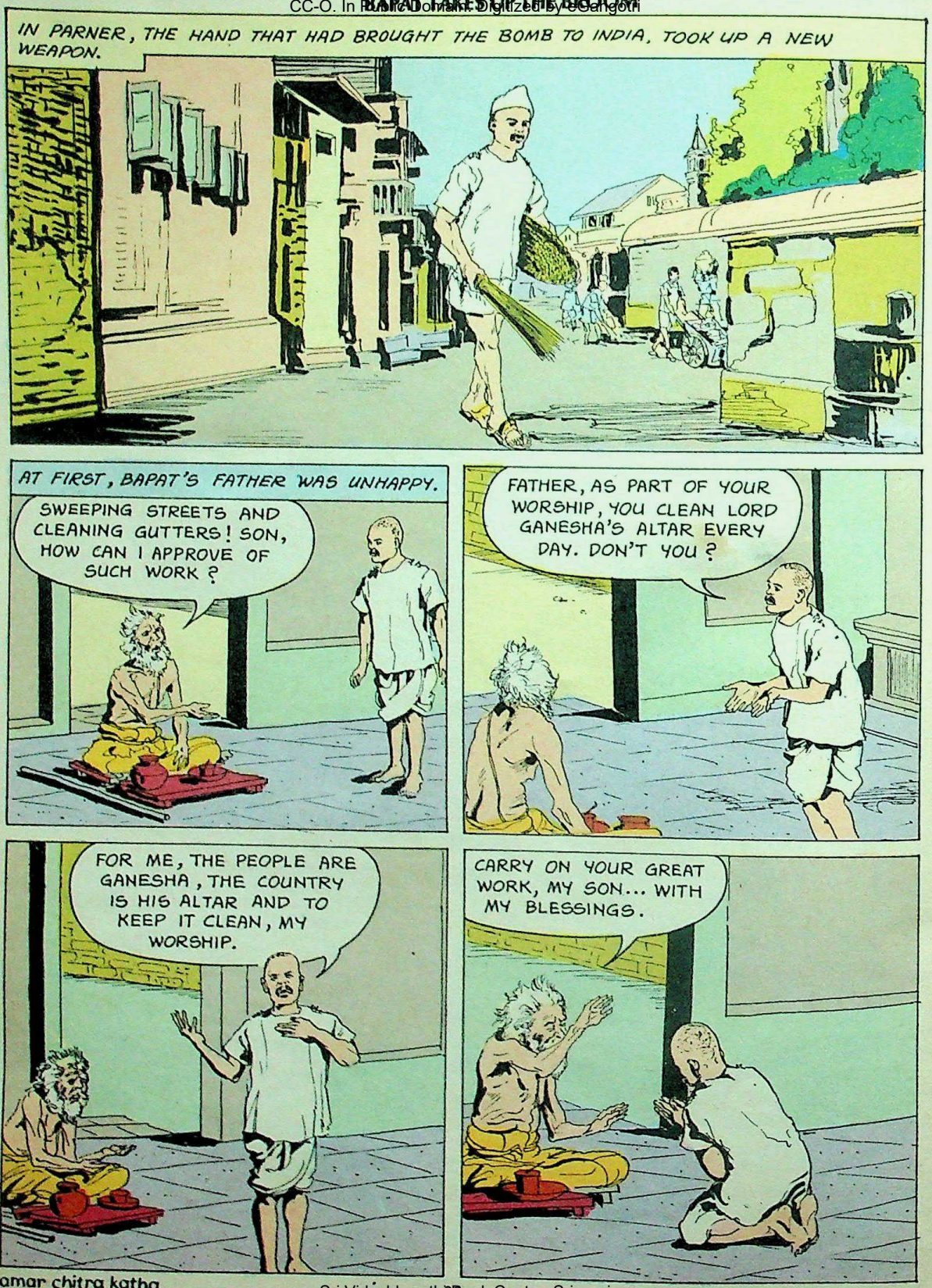
BAPAT TAKES UP THE BROOM



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ONE MORNING, TWO FRIENDS MET BAPAT AT HIS HOUSE. AT MULSHIPET, NEAR PUNE, THE TATA ELECTRIC COMPANY HAD PLANNED TO BUILD A DAM ACROSS THE RIVER AT MULSHI. THIS WAS OPPOSED BY THE PEASANTS WHOSE LAND WOULD BE SUBMERGED.

DID YOU READ ABOUT THE VIOLENCE AT MULSHIPET?

YES. IT IS VERY UNFORTUNATE.

BECAUSE THIS DAM WILL BE A BOON TO THE COUNTRY.

BUT AT WHAT COST?

BAPAT, I ADVISE YOU TO MEET THE PEASANTS AND TALK TO THEM. ONLY THEN WILL YOU REALISE THEIR PLIGHT.

I WILL.

BAPAT VISITED ALL THE FIFTY-FOUR VILLAGES WHICH WOULD BE AFFECTED BY THE PROJECT.

HOW CAN WE LEAVE THIS LAND, SIR? THIS IS WHERE I WAS BORN. THIS IS THE LAND TILLED BY MY GRANDFATHER AND HIS FATHER BEFORE HIM.

SIR, EVEN BEFORE I AGREED TO GIVE UP MY LAND, THEY OCCUPIED MY FIELD AND BEGAN WORK.

THEY SAY THE GOVERNMENT HAS GIVEN THEM PERMISSION TO DO SO.

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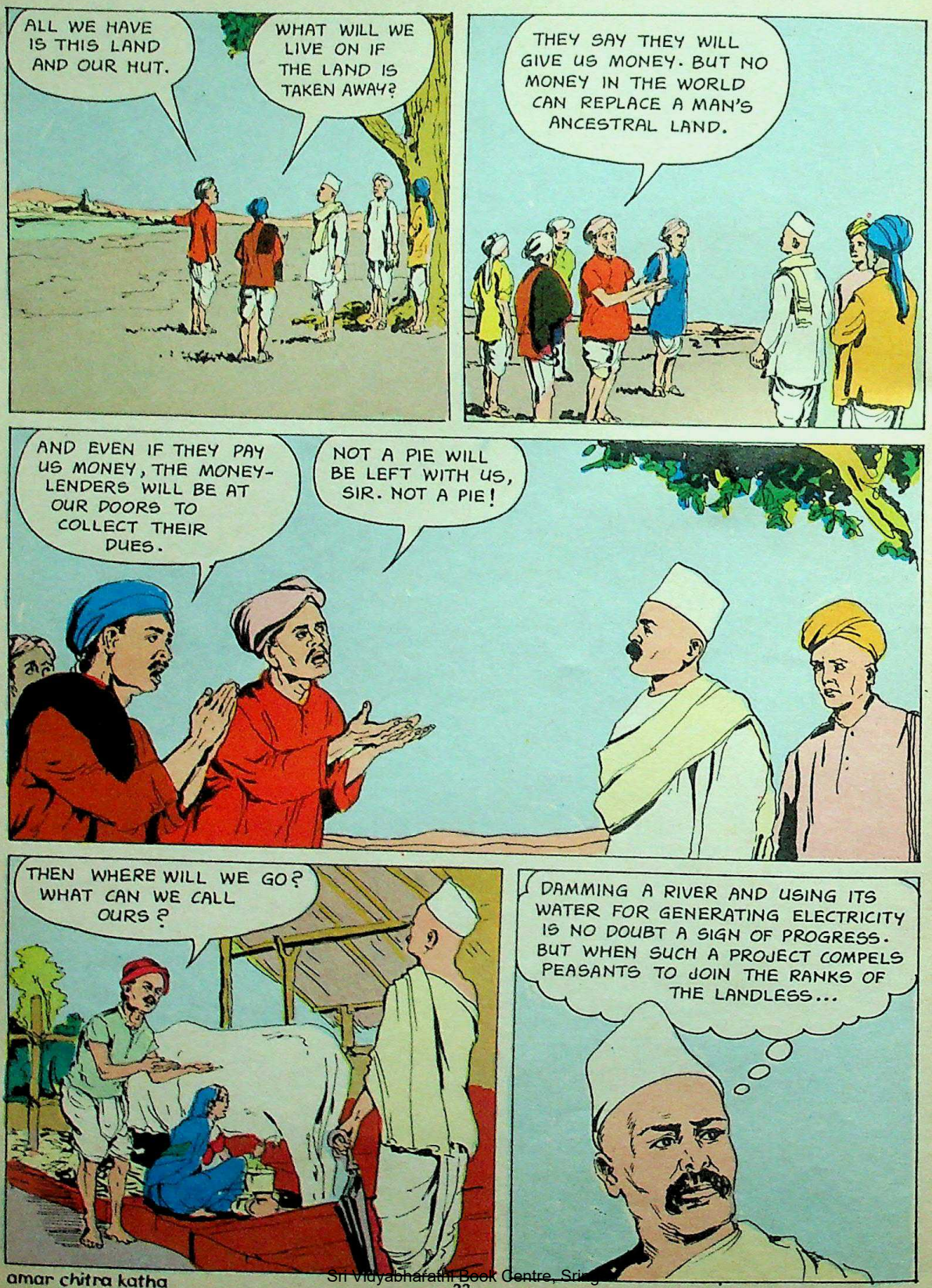

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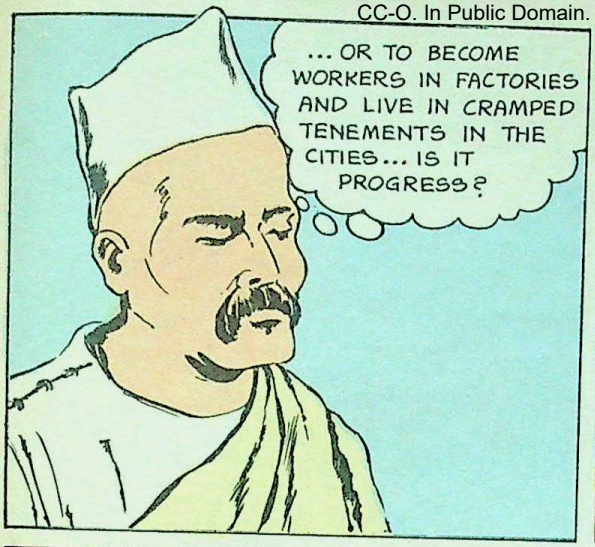

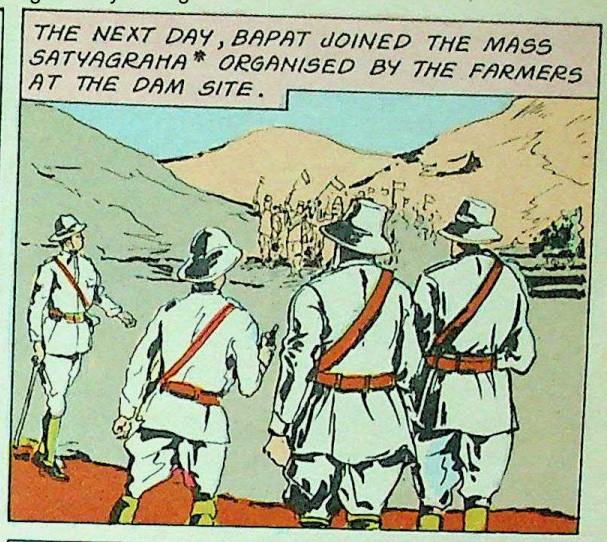

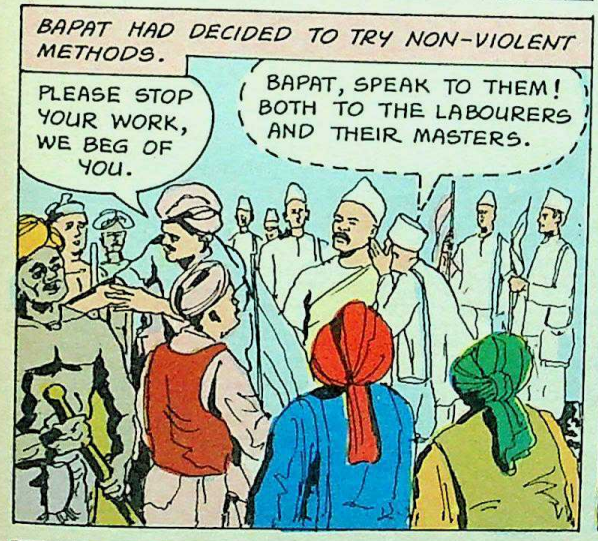

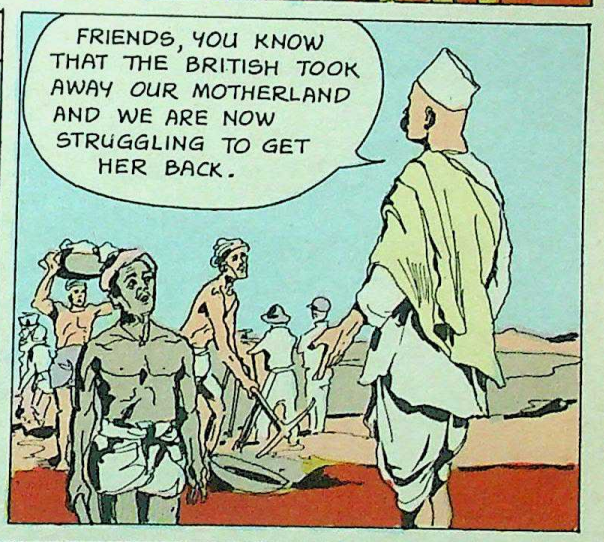

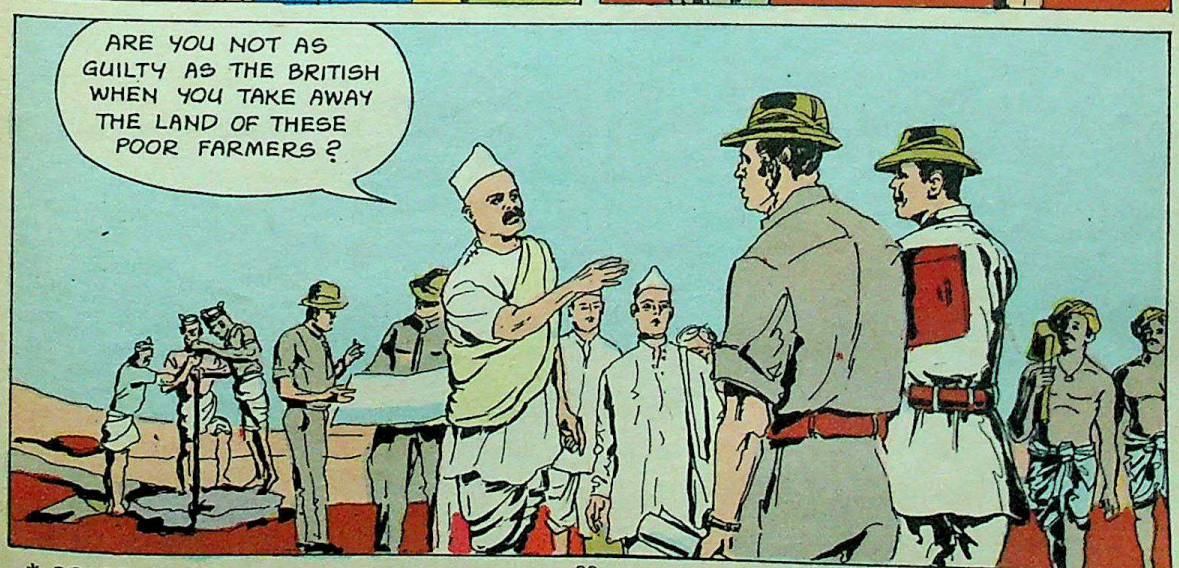

* PROTEST

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BAPAT WORKED CEASELESSLY AND WITH DEDICATION. HE TOURED MAHARASHTRA TO MOBILISE PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR THE MOVEMENT.

OURS IS A FIGHT FOR JUSTICE... PEASANTS ALL OVER THE COUNTRY ARE CONCERNED WITH THE STRUGGLE PUT UP BY THE PEASANTS OF MULSHIPET...

...FOR MORE, MANY MORE DAMS WILL BE BUILT IN THE YEARS TO COME AND THOUSANDS OF VILLAGERS WILL BE DISPLACED.

MONEY IS NOT ENOUGH. WE WANT NEW LAND FOR THE LAND THAT WILL GO UNDER WATER. WE WANT REHABILITATION TO MAKE UP FOR EVICTION. OUR FIGHT CONTINUES TILL OUR DEMANDS ARE MET.

WE ARE WITH YOU, SENAPATI!

YES. LEAD US, SENAPATI.

THUS A SENAPATI, A COMMANDER, WAS BORN — SENAPATI BAPAT.

BUT AGAIN, FOR HIS STRONG SPEECHES AND PROTEST MARCHES, SENAPATI BAPAT HAD TO GO TO JAIL TWICE, FOR SIX MONTHS AND THEN A YEAR.

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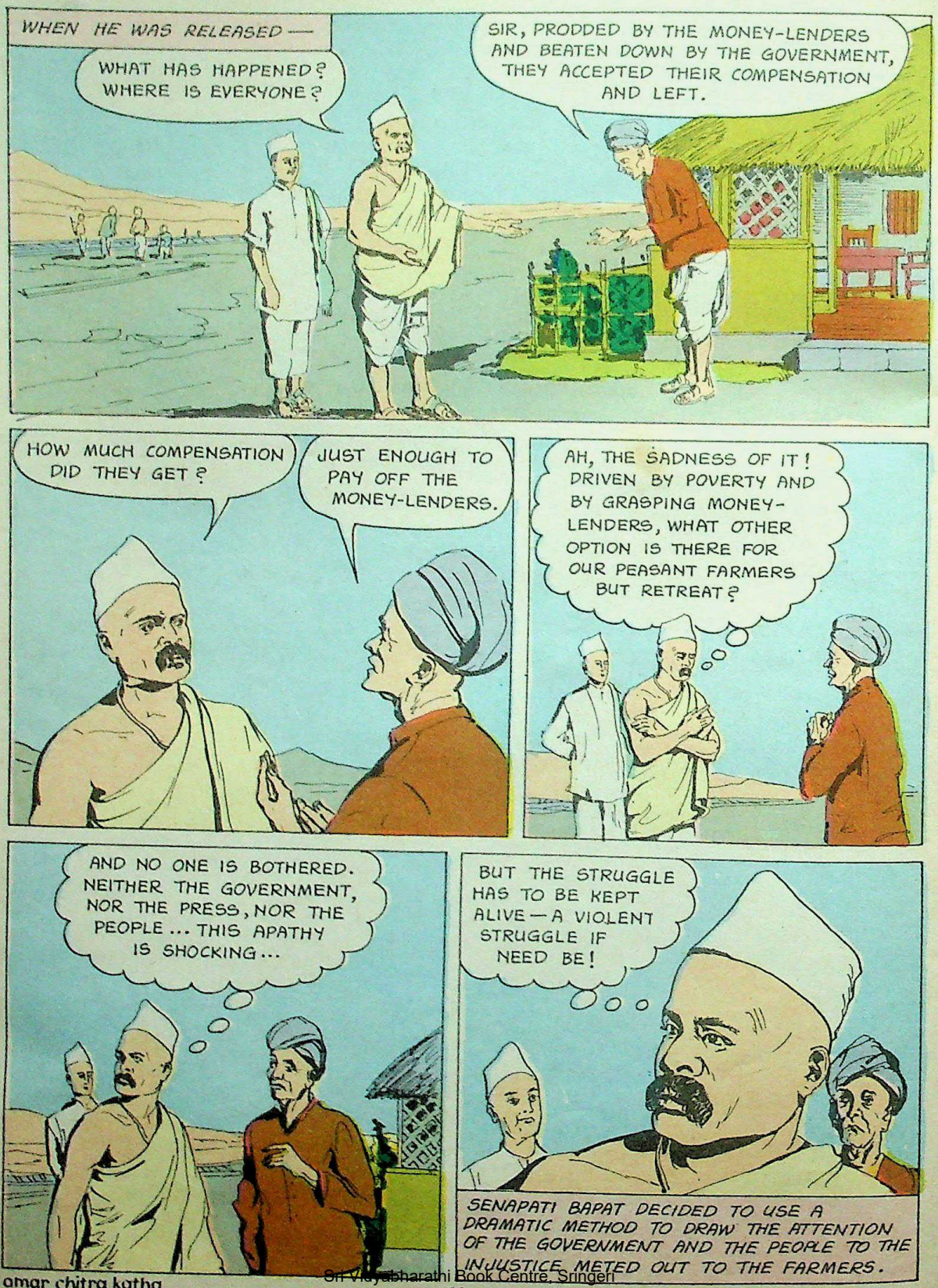

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AND LATER, AT THE TRIAL —

OUR INTENTION WAS NOT TO KILL ANYONE. PUNISH US FOR THE INJURIES WE HAVE CAUSED. WE SATYAGRAHIS ARE NOT AFRAID OF PUNISHMENT.

THERE IS A WAR GOING ON BETWEEN THE SATYAGRAHIS AND THE BUILDERS OF THE DAM. THIS IS PART OF THAT WAR.

FOR YOUR VIOLENT ACT, I SENTENCE YOU TO SEVEN YEARS' RIGOROUS IMPRISONMENT.

AFTER SEVEN YEARS IN PRISON, BAPAT EMERGED FRAIL AND THIN.

WELCOME BACK, SENAPATI. YOU MUST NOW REST FOR AT LEAST TWELVE MONTHS.

TWELVE MONTHS? TWELVE DAYS, MY FRIEND!

EVEN AFTER COMING OUT OF PRISON, BAPAT WORE CLOTHES SIMILAR TO THAT OF A PRISONER.

AREN'T YOU GOING TO CHANGE YOUR CLOTHES, SENAPATI?

NO, I SHALL CONTINUE TO DRESS LIKE A PRISONER TILL THE COUNTRY IS FREE OF THE FOREIGN YOKE.

WE HAVE TO CONTINUE OUR STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM. ONLY IN FREE INDIA CAN YOU HOPE TO PUT ON AN ELECTRIC LIGHT IN YOUR HOME, WITHOUT PUTTING OUT THE LIGHTS IN A THOUSAND OTHER HOMES.

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BAPAT SMUGGLED INTO BOMBAY

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amar chitra katha

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AND BAPAT BEGAN HIS SPEECH — FULL OF FERVOUR.

AND ONLY THEN DID THE FLABBERGASTED POLICE ACT.

STOP THAT!

HOW DARE YOU ENTER THE CITY!

FOR DEFYING THE BAN, BAPAT WENT TO JAIL FOR A YEAR. EVER GENTLE, NEVER DEJECTED, THERE WAS ALWAYS A SMILE IN HIS EYES AS HE WENT ABOUT HIS JAIL DUTIES.

YOU ARE SO QUIET HERE IN JAIL, SENAPATI. YOU NEVER REBEL OR PROTEST.

OUTSIDE JAIL, I AM A SLAVE OF THE BRITISH — I MUST REBEL AND DEFY THE LAW. BUT WHEN I AM HERE FOR THE SAKE OF MY MOTHERLAND — I MUST BE ON MY BEST BEHAVIOUR.

ON AUGUST 15, 1947, THE STRUGGLE PUT UP BY MILLIONS OF PATRIOTS, BORE FRUIT. INDIA BECAME INDEPENDENT.

IN DELHI, PANDIT JAWAHARLAL NEHRU HOISTED THE NATIONAL FLAG.

IN PUNE, BAPAT WAS GIVEN THAT HONOUR.

AFTER INDEPENDENCE, SENAPATI BAPAT CONTINUED TO TAKE AN ACTIVE PART IN SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ACTIVITIES TILL HIS DEATH ON NOVEMBER 28, 1967. HE WAS 87 WHEN HE DIED.

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